spacing between wavelengths/gridlines of a selected wavelength grid, e.g., an ITU grid (See FIG. 4 and 5A-C). In this embodiment of the invention the grid generator is fixed to the base 260.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning Page 10 line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In this embodiment the channel selector includes a gas or solid etalon 252. The etalon includes opposing planar first and second reflectors which are highly reflective, e.g., R>90%. The channel selector is dimensioned to have a free spectral range ($FSR_{Channel\_Selector}$) differing from that the grid generator (FSR_{Grid_Gen}) by an amount corresponding substantially inversely with the number of channels in the wavelength grid. Both free spectral ranges of the grid generator and channel selector are broader than the free spectral range of the cavity (FSR_{Cavity}) (See FIG. 4 and FIGS. 5A-C). In an embodiment of the invention, the FSR of the channel selector differs from the FSR of the grid generator by an amount which substantially corresponds to the quotient of the channel spacing and the number of channels in the wavelength grid, e.g., an ITU grid (See FIG. 4 and FIGS. 5A-C). Vernier tuning of the channel selector results in a single loss-minimum within the communications band which can be tuned across the grid. The combined feedback to the gain medium from the grid generator together with the channel selector supports lasing at the center wavelength of the selected channel and substantially attenuates all other channels (See FIG. 4 and FIGS. 5A-C).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning Page 8 line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--FIGS. 2A-B are isometric side and top views respectively of a tunable external cavity laser with a vernier tuned filter according to an embodiment of the current invention. The laser cavity is delimited by the partially reflecting rear facet 226 of the gain medium/laser amplifier 224 and by an external retroreflector 264. Tunable feedback to control the lasing wavelength is provided by the external cavity which is optically coupled to the anti-reflection (AR) side 228 of the gain medium. The effective reflectivity of the external cavity should be much greater than the residual reflectivity of the AR coated front facet so that the vernier